As Himachal Pradesh is hot undertaking decentralised procurement of foodgrains, food subsidy is not released directly to the State Government.

***Statement***

*Amount of food subsidy released to the States during the last three years is as under:*

(Rs. in crore)

| State | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Chhattisgarh | 158.60 | 89.94 | 628.87 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 128.27 | 66.74 | 118.75 |
| Orissa* | NIL | NIL | 40.96 |
| Tamil Nadu | NIL | 45.82 | 27.21 |
| Uttaranchal | 13.S7 | 80.43 | 92.73 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 1120.70 | 975.62 | 1377.96 |
| West Bengal | 81.19 | 27.41 | 179.97 |

* Orissa has undertaken decentralised procurement of foodgrains from 2004-05.

**Surplus foodgrain stocks**

3909. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the surplus stock of foodgrains available in the country at present, foodgrain-wise;

(b) the prupose for which the surplus stocks of foodgrains are proposed to be utilized by Government;

(c) the justifications for claiming surplus stock of foodgrains when millions of poor people in the country remain without proper food; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) The stock of foodgrains (Wheat and Rice) in the central pool *vis a vis* the buffer norms as on 1.4.2005 is as follows:

(In lakh tonnes)

| Foodgrains | Stock | Buffer Norms |
|---|---|---|
| Rice | 133.41 | 122.00 |
| Wheat | 40.66 | 40.00 |
| TOTAL | 174.07 | 162.00 |

The current stocks are adequate for distribution to Below Poverty Line (BPL), Antyodya Anna Yojana (AAY) and Above Poverty line (APL) families under Public Distribution System (PDS). besides, the stocks of foodgrains ate utilized to meet the requirements under various Welfare Schemes, Open market Sales and to meet any contingency/emergency situation *due* to crop failure, natural calamities etc.

(c) and (d) Minimum buffer norms have been prescribed for four different dates *viz* 1st January, 1st April, 1st July & 1st September. The actual stocks of foodgrains vary at different points of time depending upon procurement, stocks in hand and offtake of foodgrains under various schemes. Since the Government is following open ended policy of procurement of foodgrains, it is not possible to restrict the stocks of foodgrains to the minimum buffer norms at all points of time. The Government reviews the stock position of foodgrains from time to time and ensures that there are sufficient stocks to meet the requirements under PDS and Welfare Schemes etc. Steps are taken to ensure that sufficient quantity of foodgrains are available in all parts of the country for meeting the requirements of each State/U.T Stock of foodgrains available *vis-a-vis* the buffer norms at present are adequate to meet the above requirements.

**Complaints In Consumer Courts**

3910. SHRI T.T.V DHINAKARAN:
SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state: